

As parents of a child with significant special needs, we are very concerned that passing HB5447 would prevent our daughter from receiving a free and appropriate education and would be contrary to federal laws governing IDEA (the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). Children, such as our child, require specialized education and instruction from *highly trained and experienced* providers. Without that specialized, and individualized instruction, our children, who are already subject to a very unlevel playing field, will be subject to further harm and in significant danger.

We have faced firsthand already, despite the young age of our child, an uphill battle in securing free and appropriate services; including retaliation by our school district with routine unilateral actions made by our district's attorney that are neither appropriate nor free, costly mistakes that only serve to set our child further and further behind.

Investing in children now will provide them with an opportunity at future employment and independence. Denying children these opportunities will weigh heavily on our state going forward.

Sincerely,
Jennifer and Michael Ryan

<https://themighty.com/2018/03/williams-syndrome-disability-services-school/>



When You Have to Fight for Your Child to Get the Disability Services They Need in School

themighty.com

It takes enormous courage to push when you hear "no" over and over again.
